

David Morris <dhmdjm4@gmail.com>

Thu 2/24/2022 7:52 PM

To:

- Richard Hilton;
- Theresa Marasco;
- Dominic Gomez;
- Gina Debaca;
- Josh Hamilton

Cc:

- Joseph Lawrence;
- Sue Himmelrich;
- Kristin McCowan;
- Lana Negrete;
- Christine Parra;
- Oscar de la Torre;
- Phil Brock;
- Gleam Davis

EXTERNAL

Dear Chair Hilton,

During the course of the 2/20/22

Housing Commission meeting the public learned from Vice Chair Marasco that not all of the the work plan subcommittee meetings had been conducted with the participation of all the subcommittee members, and not all subcommittee members were privy to all subcommittee conversations or meetings, even though all members were ready to participate.

It appears that you created your own work plan agenda, handed it to the subcommittee and refused to incorporate or fully discuss any of the suggestions Commissioner Marasco had. Then you put your work plan agenda before the Commission for approval as if it was the work of the subcommittee.

This is not the democratic process the subcommittee should have adhered to. All the meetings should have been attended by all subcommittee members, if all were ready to participate. All members should have been included in any discussion of the work plan, and

all members should have worked together to ultimately reach a consensus to be brought to the Housing Commission for discussion and approval. Anything outside of these rules is not acceptable for a democratic commission. The citizens depend on the subcommittee being transparent and democratic.

I am also troubled by the statements made during the Commission meeting that brought into question how many meetings the subcommittee actually had, since there was a discrepancy between your statements and Vice Chair Marasco's statements.

This apparent lack of transparency and mishandling of city business calls into question the integrity of the commissioners involved, and by extension the entire Commission. We cannot allow the Housing Commission to go back to its old, questionable ways. The City now has a new City Council and new appointed commissions to usher in more integrity, transparency and accountability.

I also take offense to the final comments made by you as Chair of the Commission in reference to my public comment. Your statement that a number of hours were spent in conference did not clarify the actual number of meetings the subcommittee held, or who was present at each of the meetings. I believe your comments were not only untrue, but were also a violation of the Brown Act which prohibits the commissioners responding with personal opinions to the public comments. This is troubling to me as a resident of Santa Monica and a member of the public participating in the Housing Commission business.

This kind of behavior on the part of the Chair could hinder public comment in the future. No member of the public wants to be contradicted or chastised for what they said when participating in public meetings. I trust that going forward as the Chair you will conduct yourself with the highest ethical and professional integrity that is required of a public official in the city of Santa Monica.

We finally have a new Housing Commission now. You were selected as Chair in hopes of leading the commission to better days, including increased productivity, responsiveness to the public input, and

transparency. Anything short of this means you are failing in your position as Chair and should be replaced.

Sincerely,

David Morris

Santa Monica resident